UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/473,098	12/28/1999	JULIO ESTRADA	L09-99-047	9594

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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2143	

DATE MAILED: 01/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears n the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _____ MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _27 October 2004_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-15_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-15_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on _28 December 1999_ is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responding to application papers filed 10/27/2004

2. Claims **1 - 15** are pending. Claims **1, 3-11, 13-15** are amended. Independent claims are **1, 3, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15**.

Claim Rejection – 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1 - 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salas (US Patent No. 6,233,600) in view of Maurille (US Patent No. 6,484,196).**

Regarding Claim 1 [Currently amended], Salas discloses a collaboration space <u>including a plurality of rooms in a hierarchical structure with access control list control on rooms and access control list control on forward pointers to child rooms</u> (see Salas col. 3, lines 49-51: plurality of rooms with hierarchical pointers and access mechanism), comprising:

c) said readers field being a members object for identifying members authorized to

access said room and for each member a level of authorization. (see Salas col.

13, lines 32-34: object access control (readers field) mechanism)

a) Salas discloses a database and an access control list for users authorized to

access said room. (see Salas col. 3, lines 49-51; col. 13, lines 32-34) Salas does

not specifically disclose a database system for management of collaborative

space. However, Maurille discloses a place comprising a plurality of rooms, each

room being a database; (see Maurille col. 6, lines 44-57: database system for

member, message information)

b) Salas discloses a readers field for providing access control list control on said

forward pointer (see Salas col. 13, lines 32-34) Salas does not specifically

disclose a database system for collaborative workspace. However, Maurille

discloses forward and reverse pointers for linking said rooms (see Maurille col.

16, lines 17-22; col. 8, lines 33-38: to/from (forward/reverse) pointers), each said

forward pointer to a child room including indicia identifying said child room,

indicia specifying the address location of the database forming said child room;

(see Maurille col. 6, lines 44-57: database system for member, message

information)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to modify Salas to operate a collaborative workspace for

message communications between members as taught by Maurille. One of ordinary

skill in the art would be motivated to employ Maurille in order to optimize message

processing and display capabilities for a networked collaborative communications

environment.   (see Maurille col. 6, lines 13-16: " ... *Message mode allows a user to*

interact with a private bulletin board in which his messages (i.e., any message

involving the user as sender or recipient) are instantly available and displayed with

full threading information ... ")

Regarding Claim 2 [Original], Salas discloses the collaboration space of claim 1, said

levels of authorization including manager, author, and reader. (see Salas col. 13, lines

27-37; col. 14, lines 44-54: authorization levels (manager, reader, coordinator) are

managed to allow create, modify, edit procedures)

Regarding Claim 3 [Currently amended], Salas discloses a collaboration space,

comprising:

  b) a member directory for said place identifying users authorized to enter said place;

       (see Salas col. 3, lines 49-51: member information and access controls)

  c) each said room comprising one or more pages, and for each said room a

       members object for identifying members authorized to access said room and for

       each member a level of authorization; (see Salas col. 3, lines 49-51; col. 14, lines

       39-44: member information and access levels)

a) Salas discloses a plurality of rooms with pointers <u>in a hierarchical structure</u> for a collaborative workspace. (see Salas col. 3, lines 49-51) Salas does not specifically mention forward and backward pointers. However, Maurille discloses objects (rooms) linked by <u>forward and backward</u> pointers. (see Maurille col. 16, lines 17-22; col. 8, lines 33-38; pointers with to/from (forward/backward) pointers for parent/child navigation)

d) Salas discloses <u>a readers field for providing access control list control on said forward pointer</u> and a database for said rooms including a parent room and a child room structure for collaborative workspace. (see Salas col. 3, lines 49-51; col. 13, lines 32-34) Salas does not disclose forward and backward pointers. However, Maurille discloses said pointers comprising forward and backward pointers for enabling the security of each said room to be independently managed, <u>said forward pointers including indicia identifying said child room, indicia specifying the address location of the database forming said child room</u>. (see Maurille col. 6, lines 44-57: database system for member, message information)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Salas to operate a collaborative workspace for message communications between members as taught by Maurille. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Maurille in order to optimize message processing and display capabilities for a networked collaborative communications environment. (see Maurille col. 6, lines 13-16)

Regarding Claim 4 [Currently amended], Salas discloses the collaboration space of

claim 3, said readers field including an access authority for each reader authorized to

enter said room <u>selectively as manager, author or manager</u>. (see Salas col. 7, lines 8-

10 col. 14, lines 39-54: readers field access control information for room with different

access levels)

Regarding Claim 5 [Currently amended], Salas discloses the collaboration space of

claim 3, each said forward pointer being a secure pointer <u>by carrying the same level of</u>

<u>security as the child room to which it points</u>. (see Salas col. 8, lines 12-16; col. 6, lines

52-56; col. 7, lines 8-10: room template controls room generation, parent-child

relationship, child inherits characteristics of parent (including access capabilities))

Regarding Claim 6 [Currently amended], Salas discloses the collaboration space of

claim 5, each said forward pointer carrying <u>in said readers field</u> the same security as

that of the subroom to which it points. (see Salas col. 8, lines 12-16; col. 6, lines 52-56;

col. 7, lines 8-10: room template controls room generation, parent-child relationship,

child (subroom) inherits characteristics of parent (including access capabilities))

Regarding Claim 7 [Currently amended], Salas discloses the collaboration space of

claim 6, further comprising a display for presenting to a specific user viewing a parent

room a listing of its subrooms, said listing including for said specific user only those

subrooms for which said readers field in said forward pointer includes an entry

authorizing access by said specific user. (see Salas col. 12, lines 7-22: user interface

for child (subroom) display)

Regarding Claim 8 [Currently amended], Salas discloses a database access control

system, comprising:

    a) an access control list for specifying users who can or cannot access said

        database; (see Salas col. 14, lines 31-36: only specific users can access room

        based on access permissions)

    b) for users authorized to access said database, said access control list further

        specifying access levels and roles determining the specific actions said users are

        authorized to perform, said roles including reader, author, and manager; (see

        Salas col. 14, lines 37-44: access control level determines user's role)

    c) a form selectively including a form access list; (see Salas col. 13, lines 27-34:

        objects (forms) contain access control (readers) field)

    d) said database including one or more documents created from said form; (see

        Salas col. 3, lines 49-51; col. 13, lines 46-51: document information linked to

        rooms)

    f) said form access list identifying users authorized to read documents created from

        said form; (see Salas col. 14, lines 46-50: access permissions specify users that

        can read objects (documents))

g) each said forward pointer to a document including <u>indicia identifying said</u>

<u>document indicia specifying the address location of said document and a readers</u>

<u>field for providing access control list control on said forward pointer including</u> a

document access field selectively including <u>for each user authorized to access</u>

<u>said document indicia specifying whether said authorized user</u> can read or

modify said document; users identified in any said form access list for said form

from which said document was created being included in said readers field; (see

Salas col. 13, lines 32-34; col. 14, lines 44-54: object access (readers) field,

capability to read and/or modify linked documents)

h) entries in said readers field granting authorization to an individual user equal to or

less than the authorization for said individual user in said access control list; (see

Salas col. 13, lines 32-34: objects (rooms) indicate a field (readers field) with

access control parameters)

i) entries in said authors field selectively granting authorization to a user authorized

as an author in said access control list to edit a document which said author

creates. (see Salas col. 14, lines 46-50: access permissions specify users that

can edit objects (documents))

e) Salas discloses a hierarchical structure for rooms linked by pointers. Salas does

not specifically disclose forward and backward pointers. However, Maurille

discloses forward pointers linking said form to said documents and reverse

pointers linking said documents back to said form; (see Maurille col. 16, lines 17-22: to/from (forward/backward) pointers)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Salas to operate a collaborative workspace for message communications between members as taught by Maurille. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Maurille in order to optimize message processing and display capabilities for a networked collaborative communications environment. (see Maurille col. 6, lines 13-16)

Regarding Claims 9, 13, 14 [Currently amended], Salas discloses a method for controlling access to rooms within a collaboration place, comprising the steps of:

a) maintaining for said collaboration place an access control list identifying those users authorized to enter said place; (see Salas col. 3, lines 49-57: member information and access controls)

c) displaying a parent room to a specific user, said parent room including a list of children rooms for which said readers fields on said forward pointers authorize said specific user access. (see Salas Figure 1; col. 6, lines 39-55: display interface for parent room)

b) Salas discloses a readers field for providing access control list control on said forward pointer. Salas does not disclose forward/backward pointers or a database system for the collaborative workspace. However, Maurille discloses

said forward pointers <u>including indicia identifying a child room, indicia specifying</u> <u>the address location of the database forming said child room</u>; (see Maurille col. 16, lines 17-22; col. 8, lines 33-38; pointers with to/from (forward/backward) pointers for parent/child nagivation) (see Maurille col. 6, lines 44-57: database system for member, message information)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Salas to operate a collaborative workspace for message communications between members as taught by Maurille. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Maurille in order to optimize message processing and display capabilities for a networked collaborative communications environment. (see Maurille col. 6, lines 13-16)

Regarding Claim 10 [Currently amended], Salas discloses a method for creating a child room within a collaboration place data base, comprising the steps of:

   a) providing for said data base <u>a first access</u> control list identifying users authorized to access said data base; (see Salas col. 13, lines 32-34; col. 14, lines 31-36: access control mechanism to determine authorized user access)

   b) providing for said child room a back pointer to a parent room; (see Salas col. 6, lines 39-55: backward pointer to parent) and

   c) Salas discloses a readers field indicating authorized access to a room <u>for</u> <u>providing a second access control list specific to said forward pointer</u> and providing at said parent room for said child room a forward pointer from said

parent room <u>to said child room</u>. (see Salas col. 13, lines 32-34: object access

control)   Salas does not specifically disclose a database system for collaborative

workspace. However, Maurille discloses said pointer including <u>indicia identifying</u>

<u>said child room, indicia specifying the address location of the database forming</u>

<u>said child room</u>. (see Maurille col. 6, lines 44-57: database system for member,

message information)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to modify Salas to operate a collaborative workspace for

message communications between members as taught by Maurille. One of ordinary

skill in the art would be motivated to employ Maurille in order to optimize message

processing and display capabilities for a networked collaborative communications

environment.   (see Maurille col. 6, lines 13-16)

Regarding Claim 11 [Currently amended], Salas discloses the method of claim 10,

further comprising the steps of: limiting reader access in said readers access field to

said child room for a specific user to no more than the access granted said specific user

in said <u>first</u> access control list. (see Salas col. 13, lines 32-34: readers field to indicate

access controls for rooms;   col. 8, lines 12-16; col. 6, lines 52-56; col. 7, lines 8-10:

room template controls room generation, parent-child relationship, child inherits

characteristics of parent (including access capabilities))

Regarding Claim 12 [Original], Salas discloses the method of claim 11, further

comprising the step of initially including in said readers access field for a child room

created from a form users identified in a form access list identifying users authorized to

read rooms created from said form. (see Salas col. 13, lines 32-34; col. 13, lines 38-51:

object access (readers) field to specify users authorized to access room)

Regarding Claim 15 [Currently amended], Salas discloses a computer program

product or computer program element for controlling access to rooms within a

collaboration place according to the steps of:

   a) maintaining for said collaboration <u>a first</u> access control list identifying those users

   authorized to enter said place; (see Salas col. 3, lines 49-57: member information

   and access controls)

   b) <u>providing in a child room second access control list identifying those user</u>

   <u>authorized to enter said child room with manager, author, or user access;</u> (see

   Salas col. 13, lines 32-34; col. 14, lines 44-54: access levels for objects (rooms))

   d) displaying a parent room to a specific user, said parent room including on said

   forward pointers a list of children rooms for which said readers fields authorize

   said specific user access. (see Salas Figure 1; col. 6, lines 39-55: display

   interface for parent room)

   c) Salas disclose an access control (readers) field with pointers linking rooms and

   <u>providing a third access control list on said forward pointer, said third access</u>

control list providing access to said child room equivalent to said second access control list. (see Salas col. 13, lines 32-34: object (room, pointer) access control mechanism)   Salas does not specifically disclose forward and reverse (double-linked) pointers. However, Maurille discloses providing forward and reverse pointers linking said rooms in a double-linked list. (see Maurille col. 16, lines 17-22; col. 8, lines 33-38; pointers with to/from (forward/backward) pointers for parent/child nagivation; col. 6, lines 44-57: database system for member, message information)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Salas to operate a collaborative workspace for message communications between members as taught by Maurille. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Maurille in order to optimize message processing and display capabilities for a networked collaborative communications environment. (see Maurille col. 6, lines 13-16)

Conclusion

5.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kyung H Shin whose telephone number is (571) 272-3920. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 am - 7 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KHS

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